

CLAIMS:

1. (Cancel)
2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [[1]] 7 wherein the shield is a portion of the end section.
3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [[1]] 7 wherein the end section is removably connected to the housing and wherein the end section may be removed from the housing to provide access to the chamber.
4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [[1]] 7 wherein the shield is a portion of the end section.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A handheld aerosolization apparatus comprising:
according to claim 4
a housing defining a chamber having a plurality of air inlets, the chamber being sized to receive a capsule which contains an aerosolizable pharmaceutical formulation;
a puncturing mechanism in the housing for creating one or more openings in the capsule;
a shield which covers at least two but not all of the air inlets, wherein the shield comprises at least two covering portions, each covering portion covering at least one inlet, wherein the two covering portions are diametrically opposed whereby the shield prevents blockage of at least two air inlets by a user grasping the apparatus; and
an end section associated with the housing, the end section sized and shaped to be received in a user's mouth or nose so that the user may inhale through the end section to aerosolize the pharmaceutical formulation and to inhale aerosolized pharmaceutical formulation that has exited the capsule.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A handheld aerosolization apparatus comprising:
according to claim 4

a housing defining a chamber having a plurality of air inlets, the chamber being sized to receive a capsule which contains an aerosolizable pharmaceutical formulation;

a puncturing mechanism in the housing for creating one or more openings in the capsule;

a shield which covers at least two but not all of the air inlets, wherein the shield comprises at least two covering portions, each covering portion covering at least one inlet, wherein the at least two covering portions are separated by open portions, wherein the open portions provide direct access to at least one inlet, and whereby the shield prevents blockage of at least two air inlets by a user grasping the apparatus; and

an end section associated with the housing, the end section sized and shaped to be received in a user's mouth or nose so that the user may inhale through the end section to aerosolize the pharmaceutical formulation and to inhale aerosolized pharmaceutical formulation that has exited the capsule.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [[1]] 7 wherein the shield extends longitudinally along the apparatus.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A handheld aerosolization apparatus comprising:
according to claim 4

a housing defining a chamber having a plurality of air inlets, the chamber being sized to receive a capsule which contains an aerosolizable pharmaceutical formulation;

a puncturing mechanism in the housing for creating one or more openings in the capsule, wherein the puncture member is adapted to puncture only one end of the capsule;

a shield which covers at least two but not all of the air inlets, wherein the shield

comprises at least two covering portions, each covering portion covering at least one inlet, whereby the shield prevents blockage of at least two air inlets by a user grasping the apparatus; and

an end section associated with the housing, the end section sized and shaped to be received in a user's mouth or nose so that the user may inhale through the end section to aerosolize the pharmaceutical formulation and to inhale aerosolized pharmaceutical formulation that has exited the capsule.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [[1]] 11 wherein the chamber is elongated and wherein the capsule is received lengthwise within the elongated chamber.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [[1]] 11 wherein the inlet is shaped to create a swirling airflow within the chamber.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [[14]] 6 wherein the shield is a portion of the end section.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [[14]] 11 wherein the end section is removably connected to the housing and wherein the end section may be removed from the housing to provide access to the chamber.

17. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the shield is a portion of the end section.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [[14]] 7 wherein the inlet is shaped to create a swirling airflow within the chamber.

19-30. (Cancelled)